

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee Minutes
Building 30 Lower Conference Room
May 14, 2014 from 6 – 7:30 PM

Attending: MPAC Members: Julianna Ross (Chair), Ed Bronsdon (Vice-Chair), Peter Zimmerman, Gail Chiarello, Arden Forrey, Nancy Bolin, Tom Kelly, Loren Hill, Herb Curl, Diana Kincaid Colby Bradley. Absent: Aaron Hoard, Ken Sparks, Morgan Collins. Parks staff: Cheryl Fraser, Brian Judd, Andy Sheffer. Guests: Lynn Ferguson, John Wick (Mountaineers), Thea Levkovitz, WA Dept. of Ecology, Ching-Pi Wang, WA Dept. of Ecology, Tracy Bennett (Waldorf School), Nancy Bowman (Waldorf School), Guy Michaelson (The Berger Partnership).

Chair Julianna Ross called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Announcements: Julianna noted that an employee of the Seattle Musical Theater's car had been stolen recently.

Approval of the April Minutes. Nancy Bolin moved and Peter Zimmerman seconded approval of the April minutes, which were approved.

Public Comment:

Ed Bronsdon noted recent Magnuson Park Good News: (1) University Sunrise Rotary Club of Seattle "Debuts and Discoveries" tasting event raised \$20,000 to support the University Food Bank. (2) The Rotary Club also sponsors the annual block party for residents of Magnuson Park. Perhaps 300 people are expected for this fun and free community event on Thursday, June 26, 5-8PM. (3) Outdoors for All received a \$150,000 grant from the Wounded Warrior Project (a private organization), allowing Outdoors for All to double the number of therapeutic recreation programs. (4) Ed asked Brian Judd to repeat the news that Magnuson Park had earned the Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects Merit Award for Design. Ed said it was good to be celebrating "the doughnut, not the hole," and passed around lemonade to honor all the Good News.

Arden Forrey announced the formation of a group which is proposing dedication of Building 2 as a Federal, State, and City land marked building of extreme historical significance and as a public facility and museum. He also reminded MPAC of the upcoming September 28, 2014 Celebration of the First Flight Around the World.

Radiation Remediation in Magnuson Park (Chang-Pi Wang): Chang-Pi Wang described his tenure at Sand Point, first as a Navy ensign in 1990 assigned to Hanger 27, and ultimately as the Sand Point Naval Air Station Project Manager who closed down the base. He then reviewed the history of the radiation problem at Magnuson Park from 2008, when the radiation was first identified by a Parks staff member, to the present. He addressed the question of the amount of radiation present in the park, and said that an individual would have to lie down on the storm drain for Building 27 8 hours a day, 40 hours a week, or lie on bare dirt, in order to absorb an amount of radioactivity to be medically significant. Magnuson Park is safe, because even that amount of radiation has been removed.

Nancy Bolin asked about the delay in informing the community. Chang-Pi Wang stated that the Navy could have done a better job in informing the City, and that the 1990 Toxics Control Act mandates more public involvement. Washington State's Department of Ecology was just brought in last year. Tom Kelly asked about the quantifiable amount of radiation in the former shop area at the start of work. Chang-Pi Wang responded that it is 15 milli-rems/year now, on

the exterior, but that he didn't know starting level. Tom Kelly asked if the Navy is would be on the hook for cleaning up the soil elsewhere in the north shore area contaminated by oil or chemicals and asked about the total state cost of the radiation clean-up. Chang-Pi Wang responded that the Navy would be responsible for that sort of clean up and that the total state radiation clean up related cost is \$94,000 to be shared between the WA Department of Health and the WA Department of Ecology. He said the Navy would reimburse the state for these costs. Diana Kincaid raised the question of the effect of an earthquake on the levels of radiation, and Chang-Pi Wang responded that this should be our least concern. The tarmac will crack and because of hydrostatic pressure, it will shake like Jello.

Waldorf School Update (Tracy Bennett): Remodeling of Building 11 to accommodate the Waldorf School was on schedule and on budget. The building permit had been received in early April and their design had passed Landmarks Review. Waldorf was collaborating with the Cascade Bicycle Club. She introduced Nancy Bowman who will teach history at the Waldorf School and serve as the point person for Magnuson Park history. There is an August 18th move-in date scheduled, and the first day of school will be the Wednesday following Labor Day. They expect an initial student body of 84-85 students, with a maximum capacity of 100-110 students. The school day will begin at 8:10AM and run through 3:20PM each day, with some after-school activities scheduled through to 5PM. Tracy expressed her deep appreciation ("a big shout-out") to Brian Judd and Cheryl Fraser for their help with the entire process.

Wetlands Update (Andy Sheffer): Andy introduced Guy Michaelson of The Berger Partnership who showed a Powerpoint presentation on the Washington State Landscape Architect award and the status of the wetlands and wildlife habitat and possible future projects. The Park Department and Berger Partnership Park had worked with the Department of Ecology and the Army Corps of Engineers on four consecutive projects, and these agencies had "let up" on their requirements for monitoring by reducing required monitoring interval from yearly to every two years. Monitoring reports including invertebrate counts are available via the park website. .

Guy mentioned our success resulting in being asked to look at NOAA wetlands and that provided quite a contrast.. Its wetlands are "low-performing" wet grassy meadows, and represent 1980s expertise. Since then wetlands restoration has moved into a "high-performing" or "maximum-performing" phase with more emphasis on diversity of types of wetlands, including upland scrub-shrub habitat, and wetlands with a variety of depths

A slide of the 2004 Master Plan showed the wetlands restoration project is following the "intent" of the Master Plan, but it is viewed as more of a road map which allows for greater flexibility. For instance, the planned "lagoon" project in vicinity of Lake Shore Drive was replaced by shore ponds The 2004 cost estimate for the restoration had been \$60-65M but in fact the project has been completed for much less than that. Vegetation has been re-establishing itself more rapidly than had been thought, with lots of alders and big-leaf maples "doing great." There are glacial errata (rocks) near the shore ponds. Higher water table although desirable from previous wetland installation complicated Shore Pond Construction.

Andy and Guy are seeking opportunities and grants to continue the work, and hope to have more artwork. Step like concrete forms near the berm by the boat launch mark the former center-line of the runway, and other interpretative installations would be possible. After the wetland installations they realized. providing some area for public interaction with the water edge was desirable. Phase 3.1 as park crew construction of a wetland done as mitigation for Off-Leash Area work, with discussion with the Army Corps about riparian adjustments to the wetlands. The headwaters project is Phase 3.2 and involved removing the "Y" in Sportsfield

Drive and installing swale (drains) in the property. Andy has worked with Seattle Public Utilities and the Parks Department to bring more water into the site, treat it with two treatment ponds and swale, and address issues of standing water. A near-term project is the Crew Quarters in Building 308, the “stripe project,” ~~with parking~~ some support features for Parks volunteers, a kitchen area, a large conference room. The whole southern edge of the building will be made of glass.

The 520 mitigation effort will bring new resources to the wetlands and shoreline restoration effort. Some want a “bio” connection to the lake. The middle area is the “Sacred Habitat Zone,” from just north of the boat launch through the old ~~There is talk of removing the~~ tennis courts area.

The work is getting done in bite-sized chunks. Slides showed potential future project areas around Kite Hill one would be linking the swim beach cottonwood grove to other woodland near the hill top and beyond. Another could be upland forest creation on the northeast side of Kite Hill now covered by invasives. Another would be a project (although likely different than forest) near the mostly flat area on the east side of the north end of the hill. There is also an incredible stretch of shoreline—currently “low-performing” but not a swim beach.

Lynn Ferguson offered kudos to Andy and to Guy for their efforts.

Building 2 Update (Cheryl Fraser): A 2008 inventory of Building 2 suggested \$21-27M would be needed to restore the building. Lt. Gov. Brad Owen has suggested an archery range, for veterans who are “passionate about archery.” She plans to invite a representative to the next MPAC meeting. There will be a charette on Building 2 to identify partners with the potential for other uses. Some suggested indoor lacrosse or “box lacrosse.” There is interest in the small hanger. Cheryl added, as a by-the-way, that bathrooms open to the public are now included in every lease.

Tom Kelly asked if there would be an RFP process, hearing of archery brought the idea of firing range use to mind and that might have better finances although it would probably be objectionable to some. In response most members seemed to find firing range use objectionable.. Lynn Ferguson commented that the archery was very high-powered and had an unsuccessful outdoor record at the park but as part of a mixed indoor use the plan sounded reasonable. Cheryl Fraser said that the archery court needed to be 80 meters long. There had been a group interested in an aquatic center, but they have dropped out. One individual asked about the cost of demolishing Building 2 and Cheryl responded it would be \$21M or more; Lynn Ferguson added that Building 2, Sand Point's oldest contributing historic building is protected from demolition under state and City historic preservation laws, was now the oldest building on the site and that the state still has oversight.. Cheryl Fraser commented that both hangers are empty, although the north end is occupied by the Seattle Conservation Corps.

Other Updates: Brian Judd: the R. C. Racers may use at of the outdoor tennis courts for their electric radio-controlled cars, which appeal to Microsoft and Boeing geeks, and to the Solid Ground kids. John Wick: The Mountaineers are adding a hill-climbing feature. Brian Judd: Joanne Orsucci is turning her parks calendar into a “one-stop shop” where the public can view all the events in Magnuson Park on any given day. Tenants and others are urged to send notices to Joanne’s administrative person. A miniature golf course concession has been suggested between the two tennis centers.

Circulation Subcommittee (Loren Hill): Loren commented that the NOAA Road had been open for two weeks but was closed now. Brian Judd said there had been 1-2 close calls. Cheryl Fraser said Parks is aggressively requiring that the gates be open for every event. Tom Kelly had a copy of the agreement with NOAA; Cheryl said the agreement was being reviewed by legal. Flaggers might be required. Ed Bronsdon reported he had talked to the flagger about issues while the road was open, and the flagger could not recall any problems. Ed talked about the need for a right turn into the North Shore Recreation Area. Loren talked about monitoring the use of the road when it was open. Brian Judd talked about Dave Petri and the labor organizations at NOAA. Ed Bronsdon said there would be a NOAA Open House on Friday noon-7PM with tours of the Art Walk and other environmental features. John Wick reported that when the NOAA Gate is closed, traffic in front of the Mountaineers Building is higher volume and going faster, with no one stopping at the stop sign. The volume of traffic is down 60-70% when the NOAA Gate is open. Loren Hill recalled that Tim Gallagher had cost estimates and a schematic design of changes to allow NSRA access and requested to see them. Cheryl Fraser reported that NOAA wants a traffic signal (rather than just a stop sign) at the Sand Point Way intersection & wanted Parks to guarantee that one would be installed, but this would have to be an SDOT guarantee.

Building 18 and SPACE Update (Julianna Ross): SPACE (Sand Point Arts & Cultural Exchange) is working on funding for a teaching artist to work with Solid Ground youth on creating nature-inspired art for the soon-to-be boarded-up windows on Building 18. There may be a Kickstarter campaign for this. Project estimate is \$10,000 including supplies (a lot of paint, anti-graffiti coating), teaching artist fee, small stipends for youth, food, etc.

Phyllis Kenney Dedication May 21st Noon: Pete Zimmerman invited the public to this event.
Good of the Order: John Wick "road closed," and Ed Bronsdon "ice."

Business being concluded, the meeting adjourned at 7:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Chiarello with thanks to Tom Kelly

APPROVED AT THE JUNE 11, 2014 MPAC MEETING